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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Finnish Youth Cooperation (Special; 2004)

PART I - INTRODUCTION

Allianssi is an umbrella organization for Finnish youth organisations. It is an interest organisation for Finnish youth and organisation. The organization is also a service organisation for those, who work with young people on the local or regional level and in youth organisations and a service organisation directly for young people.

Allianssi is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation independent of any political and denominational affiliation. Membership is open to all democratic nation-wide organisations dealing with youth issues. Unlike most European national youth councils, Allianssi carries out a great variety of activities; this is largely because it inherited them from the constituent organisations. Allianssi not only provides a discussion forum for its members and exercises youth policy influence towards authorities, but also provides a wide range of services.

Allianssi offers educational services to local youth workers and organisations. The educational provision varies from organisational economics through multicultural education to training on street work. It runs a Youth Policy Library. It is the only one of its kind in the Nordic countries. Its collections include research literature and other publications which deal with young people. It is intended for researchers and for anyone interested in young people's affairs. The collection contains some 13 000 publications and 200 volumes of journals and reviews. Allianssi promotes youth policy. Together with the Advisory Council for youth affairs (former State Youth Council), Allianssi arranges shadow elections since 1995 for young people between 15 and 18, who elect their own "youth parliament". In a project designed to alleviate youth unemployment, Allianssi compiled and passed on young people's own ideas for employment. Allianssi has also been involved with the Finnish youth work strategy from the beginning. The strategy is designed to promote youth work and activities, with a special emphasis on young people's living conditions. Allianssi's international policy and activities are co-ordinated by the general assembly and the Board, as well as the international subcommittee, international seminars and study visits for its member organisations and also arranges them itself.

Through Allianssi it is possible to take part for the courses and seminars throughout Europe. Allianssi has actively participated in the Council of Europe campaign against racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance and is a member organisation of the European wide network against racism UNITED. Presently the main emphasis is in the promotion of multicultural youth work both nationally and internationally.

PART II.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Finnish Youth representatives to the United Nations General Assembly

Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi (National Youth Council of Finland) has coordinated the selection of youth representative who is included in the official delegation of Finland to the United Nations General Assembly. This procedure has been going on already for over 10 years.

Selection of Youth Representative to The United Nations General Assembly in reported years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

ii) Follow-up and consultation in implementation of the World Programme Action for Youth

Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi has been following the implementation of the World Programme Action for Youth and the Convention of the Rights of the Child in Finland. Both of these agreements are the basis of our work. We organize regular consultations with our members about issues that concern the youth. Our main advocacy tools are contacts to the Ministry of Youth and other ministries in Finland, United Nations Programme on Youth and various Youth Representatives to the United Nations General Assembly. Other main fora for international co-operation in youth issues are for example International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), European Youth Forum (YFJ), Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Union Commission youth activities.

iii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

With United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Finland in order to promote development co-operation within political youth organizations, Allianssi and UNDP Finland office completed a one year project in 2007 in order to promote development co-operation issue in programmes of political youth organizations in Finland. This project included seminars, lectures, debates and a study trip to Tanzania.

2. Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone

(Special; 1996)

PART I — Introduction

The Foundation "Giovanni e Francesca Falcone" was constituted in Palermo on the 10th of December 1992. From 1993, the Italian Government recognized the Foundation as a non profit institution devoted to social purposes. According to the Italian legal system, the foundation is an institution requiring an estate destined to social purposes, with the exclusion of any profit activities. The bodies of Foundation Giovanni e Francesca Falcone are: (i) General Council — 32 members; (ii) President; Prof. Maria Falcone; (iii) Secretaries-General; Dr Liliana Ferraro e Dr Giannicola Sinisi; (iv) College of the auditors of accounts — 3 members.

i. Aims and purposes of the organization

According to the Statute, the principal aim of the Foundation is to implement high social interest initiatives, such as the promotion of study, research and cultural and assistance activities in order to promote the development of a anti-mafia culture in the society, and in particular among young people, as well as the promotion of professional specialization in the investigative and judicial apparatuses committed in the action of prevention and fight against the mafia organized crime.

In the social and cultural commitment of the Foundation, a special attention is reserved to the pedagogical and educational problem of the youth, trying to realize a real permanent education to legality principles through social and cultural initiatives.

Moreover the Foundation's aim is to spur integration and cooperation among the European and international judicial system for a more effective co-ordination among all the States and the Agencies concerned with the prevention and the repression of the organized crime for a more rapid and contrasting action.

The ways to carry out these aims are: (i) organizing meetings, seminars, training and educational courses; (ii) preparing, commissioning, printing, editing and spreading researches and studies publications; (iii) establishing scholarships; (iv) participating in other Italian or foreign foundations or associations with similar aims.

Since 1992 the Foundation organized many activities which contributed in increasing its national and international reputation.

Meetings, seminars, training and educational courses: Every year the Foundation organizes meetings with the participation of Italian and foreign experts in organized crime, politicians and State representatives: (i) October 2003-May 2004 Palermo (Italy): *Civil Education training course for teacher organized with University La Sapienza (Rome-Italy) "Remembering Giovanni Falcone: young people, the responsibility and sense of the legality"; (ii)* 23 May 2004 Palermo (Italy): *Seminar with Pro-tempore President of UE Commission Romano Prodi: Europe: pace, justice and security; (iii)* October 2004 - May 2005 Palermo (Italy): *Civil Education training course for teacher organized with University La Sapienza (Rome- Italy); (iv)* 22-23 May 2005 Palermo (Italy): *Seminar: Young people meet institutional representatives of the region of southern Italy on work and security matters; (v)* October 2005 - May 2006 Palermo (Italy): *Civil Education training course for teacher; (vi)* 23 May 2006 Palermo (Italy): *Seminar: "The law and civil education"; (vii)* October 2006 - May 2007 Palermo (Italy): *Civil Education training course for teacher; (viii)* 22-23 May 2003 Palermo (Italy): *Meeting: "Giovanni Falcone e Paolo Borsellino – their lesson of freedom and democracy".*

The Foundation is also committed in the promotion of culture against the mafia in our society, through activities (meetings, conferences and lectures) for elementary and high school and university students in Italy and abroad.

Scholarships: The Foundation grants, each year, ten scholarships to young law graduates Sicilians. These scholarships are utilized for studies and researches on organized crime, to develop anti-mafia culture and to contribute in the action of prevention and fight against the organized mafia crime. Until now the Foundation carried out 90 researches.

In 2003, one of our fellows for his research, hosted at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Affiliation to an international NGO in consultative status: The Foundation has no affiliation to any non-governmental organization already in status.

Participation in the work of the Economic and social Council and its subsidiary bodies:

From 9 to 18 October 2006, Dr Giulio Enea participated in the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption, held in Vienna.

During the different meetings, seminar and lecture the Foundation took the opportunity to stress the importance and the commitment of all the persons involved in the different United Nations' organisms and agencies in fighting international organized crime, to improve the culture of legality and for the respect of human rights.

3. International Catholic Child Bureau
(Special; 1952)

PART I. Introduction

ICCB is an international Catholic network aiming at the promotion and the protection of the dignity and the rights of the child on the basis of the norms set by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). ICCB serves all children without discrimination or proselytism, fully respecting their nationality, culture and religion. As human beings in their own right, children have fundamental and inalienable rights while their integral development also requires the recognition of their spiritual dimension. ICCB also promotes resilience, which enables children to rebuild their own lives and use their significant inner resources. A human rights based approach guide ICCB's awareness raising process and mobilization with children as well with their parents, family, and all those who play a part in their development, including public authorities. The best interests of the child and the respect of his/her dignity are the heart of ICCB commitment. We have a long-term vision for our professional work and we constantly seek to identify new threats and also new opportunities available to children. Our employees must observe an agreed code of conduct.

ICCB's main fields of activities are: (i) field projects with vulnerable children: in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Latin America, ICCB is engaged in preventing all forms of violence and promoting relentlessly the rights of the child. Children's participation is key to our activities; (ii) international advocacy: thanks to our representation to the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the

Council of Europe and the European Union institutions, ICCB calls for the promotion, the protection and the implementation of children's rights worldwide; (iii) research: thanks to our publications, our Resource Center and differentiated, multilingual websites as well as our training sessions, ICCB shares and disseminates best practices on the rights of the child. ICCB has also played a catalyst role in quickly expanding the issue of resilience and the rights of the child, namely through training programs in about 50 countries, including Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Spain and Switzerland.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Regular participation in the sessions of the former Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Special attention has been paid to the reports of the Special Rapporteur on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as ICCB acts as co-convener of the NGO Subgroup on Sexual Exploitation. For instance, on 8 April 2005, during the General Debate on the Rights of the Child at the Commission on Human Rights, ICCB presented a statement on measures to fight against the commercial sexual exploitation of children and assessed progress made after the II World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Yokohama, Japan 17-20 December 2001). Within the NGO Subgroup on Violence against Children, ICCB has provided information collected in the field by our Regional Delegations as a contribution to the United Nations Study on Violence against Children and played a leading role in the working group on child's participation during the West and Central Africa Consultation, which took place in Bamako (Mali) from 23 to 25 May 2005. On 7 April 2004, ICCB also presented a statement at the Commission on Human Rights highlighting how easy and safe access to child protection mechanisms, often allow hidden or ignored instances of violence to surface and urged States to include a strong focus on eradicating violence against children in all relevant national plans of actions and policies.

In view of disseminating the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and harmonize it with national legislations, ICCB studied the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and issued a study on children and armed conflict in 2005 (*Recueil sur la minorité — Analyse et commentaires de la legislation applicable aux enfants associés aux forces et groupes armés et aux enfants victims de conflits).*

Enhancing the implementation of the CRC at the local level and use its recommendations as a working agenda is at the core of our mission. For this reason, ICCB supported the participation of some of our West African members to the sub-regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which took place in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 6 to 8 November 2007.

ii) Cooperation with UN bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

From 2004 to 2007, ICCB has conducted an important number of field projects to develop child protection mechanisms. In discharging our mandate, the collaboration with UN bodies and agencies has been crucial to improve the quality of our awareness-raising efforts among local populations working with children and with children themselves and of our advocacy initiatives with national authorities. Below are a few examples that give evidence of the results obtained thanks to this cooperation: (i) Better understanding of the situation of detention centers in Côte d'Ivoire due to the detailed information that ICCB provided in 2006 and 2007 to the first and second Reports of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOIC); (ii) Implementation of several projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire, namely on juvenile justice, children affected by HIV and AIDS, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers thanks to the financial support received from UNICEF, the International Labor Office (ILO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); (iii) Involvement in drafting the Democratic Republic of the Congo Code on child protection (2007) in conjunction with UNICEF and the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC); (iv) Engagement in the project "Leave no child out" (2003-2005) within the NGO-UNICEF Regional Network for Children, where ICCB contributed to the creation of an environment where States and non-States actors in the CIS include the rights of the child in the legal reform process; (v) Participation in a consultation organized by UNICEF / TRACO and the World Conference on Religions for Peace to discuss ways to strengthen and develop alliances between UNICEF and faith-based groups in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to promote and protect the rights of the child in the region, Republic of Panama, 19-22 June 2006.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In order to implement **Goal 2 - Achieve universal primary education** in 32 villages of Sihanoukville Province (Cambodia) and as a way to ensure prevention and recovery from child sexual abuse, ICCB and its local partners developed a project that has, in the period covered by this report, directly benefited to 800 children who received non formal education, 1,800 children, who received school materials to integrate formal school, 1,300 children who participated in recreational activities, 29 teachers and 9 community social workers, 54 animators from the communities. In addition, 6,000 community members received indirect sensitization through the Child Peer Groups and the Child Welfare Groups.

Throughout 2004, ICCB supported the network *Poder Crecer* in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chili, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) with a view of implementing Goal 2. As a result, 25,000 children and adolescents, 20,000 families and 30,000 educators have been directly involved in the network. In addition, more than 60,000 children and adolescents, 130,000 families and 100,000 educators have indirectly benefited from the project. Girls and mothers represented 60% of the beneficiaries.

In the Kapan District, Kathmandu (Nepal) the extremely precarious conditions in which families live due to the past-armed conflict and economic constraints cause a high mortality rate of younger

children and a lack of basic care. Therefore, in 2007, in order to implement **Goal 4 — Reduce child mortality**, ICCB and its local partners started a project to enable psychosocial development of 3-5 year old children by providing a community based childcare centre (*Paribartan Bal Bikas Kendra*) in which parents are also actively involved and by sensitizing the community to the importance of early childhood care.

4. Isis: International Women's Information and Communication Service (Special; 1996)

Part I. Introduction

Isis International (Isis) is committed to the promotion of women's empowerment, greater social justice, and people-centred development. With its expertise in feminist development communications Isis continues to create spaces for women's participation and advocate for the voices and perspectives of women in the South to be heard. It also provides access and initiates opportunities to strengthen feminist analysis, discourse and advocacy, networking and capacity building. Isis' commitments are carried out through its four major programmes: Community and Independent Media; Governance, Communications, and Democracy; Feminist Movement Building and Strategic Networking; Organizational Development and Administration. In last ten years the Isis felt the decline in resource availability for women and development work. As a result of this Isis has streamlined its operations through: maintaining leaner programs, smaller number of personnel, while continuing to work creatively for networking and capacity building for women in the South. The same creativity is employed in continuing work with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). It continues to participate in major United Nations conferences, initiating discussions with women on the ground, and sharing its expertise development communications expertise to the various constituents of United Nations agencies.

Part II. Contribution of the Organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, or participation in major United Nations Conferences and Meeting

Activities towards Beijing Platform for Action Monitoring: (i) Asia-Pacific Non-Government Organizations Forum on Beijing +10, 10 July 2004, Bangkok, Thailand. Isis provided information and communication support thought the facilitating reviews and ratings for the film festival; live coverage web cast of four major plenary sessions; live-radio dispatches for Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, Nepal, and Kyrgyzstan; and providing daily on-site reports. In this forum Isis also sponsored a workshop on "Section J Revisited: New Feminist Perspectives on the Interlinkages of Media and Information, Communications Technologies (ICT) with Economic Globalization, Fundamentalisms and Militarism" to call attention to corporate media monopolization and how it obliterated local culture, lack of Asia Pacific women in decision making power in Media and ICT structures; (ii) High Level Meeting, United Nations Economic and Social Commission in Asia Pacific, 6-10 September 2004, Bangkok, Thailand. Isis attended this four-day meeting that tackled the Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform of Action; (iii) Women Shaping Democracy: Progressive Politics 10 years after

the World Conference on Women in Beijing, 24-25 October 2005 Manila, Philippines. Isis together with Friedrich Erbert Stiftung-Philippines co-organized an international conference that was attended by parliamentarians, policy makers, activists and scholars, and experts from Asia and Europe to discuss the broad theme of gender, governance, and democracy. In this space Isis gave a presentation that critiques on the growing constitutionalism and government's submission to the pressures of the neo-liberal framework.

World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Phase Two: (i) Tunisia Preparatory Committee Meeting, 24-26 June 2004, Tunisia, Africa. Isis participated in this preparatory meeting that was aimed at addressing the process of the Geneva Plan of Action. Isis was part of communication activists who presented statements on Independent and Community Media; (ii) Philippine Summit on the Information Society, 9 September 2005, Manila, Philippines. Isis presented to the Philippine delegation its analysis on Financing Mechanisms in support of Global Civil Society efforts during the Second WSIS. This presentation aimed to inform the Philippine delegation regarding the interconnectedness of trade policies and multi-lateral policy making within Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industries.

49th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, February 28 – March 11, 2005: Isis attended the session and facilitated a panel on the Beijing plus 10 Millennium Development Goals that was organized by the Women's Environment and Development Organization. Isis also provided and Information and Communication support for the Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) through onsite reports for the APWW lists and website for the duration of the meeting. These reports bridged the communication between APWW members participating in New York. Isis also produced an info-pack on Media and Globalization that was disseminated in the conference.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and / or specialized agencies in the field and/or at headquarters

Men as Partners to End Violence against Women, 3-4 September 2007, Bangkok, Thailand. The conference was sponsored by: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and the Royal Thai Governments. Isis shared its work on gender equality in the Asia Pacific Region.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Conference on Community Radio, 1-2 November 2007, Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Isis provided capacity building training on community radio for UNDP constituents in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In the presentation Isis stressed on the importance of community radio in for women's active participation in public life. At the end of the conference participants' expressed committed to setup of ten more stations in the poorest districts in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

European Union and United Nation Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 Conference, Belgium, 6-7 November 2007. Isis presented the use of 1325 in the Women Making Airwaves for Peace, a one-year capacity building project of Isis on the transformative potential of community radio and women's participation in Peace Building. Isis focused its presentation on the role and responsibility of media in the informing the public of the UNSCR 1325.

iii. Initiatives in Support of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Developing a Local Monitoring System on the MDGs, Goal 5, and Target 7, 2 March 2007, Manila Philippines. Isis attended this meeting sponsored by Institute for Social Studies and Action, to discuss mechanisms to monitor MDG targets on reproductive health.
Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Country Report Validation Workshop, 3 April 2006, Quezon City, Philippines. Isis attended this workshop, and shared its work on incorporating CEDAW as part of it info-com and capacity building work.

5. Planetary Association for Clean Energy (Special; 2004)

Part 1. Introduction

The aims and purposes of our organization are to: (i) facilitate the discovery, research, development and demonstration of clean energy systems; (ii) steward the planning, co-ordination and implementation of clean energy systems on planetary, continental, regional and local scales; (iii) serve as monitor and alerter of "unclean" energy systems.

Our main course of action is the maintenance of an international, interdisciplinary and collaborative network of advanced scientific thinking, by way of publishing, including via the Internet, conferences, -presentations and workshops; and by peer review, evaluation, and verification initiatives.

During the period of 2004-2007, our special consultative status with ECOSOC widened our scope of action and has contributed to the planning of humanitarian strategies for the deployment of clean energy systems in concert with United Nations objectives and agencies — namely for the provision of essentials (clean water, energy, surface revitalization, housing, wastewater and waste remediation and toxic and nuclear waste decontamination) to communities worldwide.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Representatives attended the following meetings:

2005: (i) **World Bank Institute:** 24 January, Geneva, Lecture by Prof D. Kaufmann on the Report on Corruption in Governance. PACE asked that environmental corruption be considered in Report; (ii) **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**: 17 February, Geneva, meeting on how aid scenario has changed, adding value of United Nations coordination; (iii) **The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**: 24 February, Geneva, Lecture on "Role of NGOs". PACE brought up the issue of electromagnetic fields; (iv) **World Bank** briefing: 2 March. "From Today's Strategy Space...Towards 2020...Aid, Trends and Scenarios; (v) **United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR):** Participated in most sessions held in 2005; (vi) **OHCHR**: 22 March, attended a meeting between the High Commissioner on Human Rights and NGOs; (vii) **OHCHR**: 31 March, general briefing with the Independent Expert on human rights and extreme poverty; (viii) **WCC**: 31 March, presentation on "Health Issues in Emergency Situations". PACE distributed relevant

information on water/sanitation/purification; (ix) **UNHCR**: 12 April, PACE was signatory to the NGO Joint Statement on the Reform of the Human Rights Commission presented at the 61st Session of the Human Rights Council and delivered by the President of CONGO; (x) **ILO - World Bank Geneva**: 3 June, seminar with World Bank Chief Economist on a "Preview of the World Development Report 2006 - Equity and Development"; (xi) **The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):** 23 - 24 June, Gland, participation in a consultation process with environmental and sustainable development agencies specialists on "Policy Approaches, Practical Interventions and Lessons on Poverty-Environment Links in IUCN and Swiss Institutions".

2006: (i) **United Nations 2006 International Year of the Deserts and Desertification**: March – April, field visit to Niger to contact local NGOs for possible PACE humanitarian strategies; (ii) **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):** participation in all Sessions; (iii) **UN–AIDE**: 8-9-10 May, "How to surmount the obstacles to achieve the Goals of the Declaration of the Millennium for the year 2015"; (iv) **OHCHR**: 16 May, round-table discussion on "Human Dignity, brotherhood and dialogue between cultures"; (v) **UNHRC Meeting**: 28 June, joint oral statement by NGOs on Human Rights Education and Learning (HREL); (vi) **World Bank:** 22 September, launch of the World Development Report 2007 on "Development and the Next Generation".

2007: (i) **WTO**: 1 February, attended the Trade Negotiating Committee debriefing on 31 January; (ii) **UNHRC/OHCHR**: 10 - 24 May 2007, participation in Human Rights Council meeting, convened by the President; 11 May 2007: Participation at the "Human Rights and Access to Water"; (iii) **UNHRC:** 4 June, attendance in honour of the President of Chile, invited by Human Rights Council President; (iv) **UNHRC**: 5 June, meeting between the President of Human Rights Council and NGOs on institution-building of the Council; (v) **UNHRC/OHCHR**: 22 August, discussion and exchange on relevant preparatory process with Bureau designate of Preparatory Committee for the 2009 Durban Review Conference; (vi) **UNHRC/OHCHR**: 24, 26 September and 1 October, preparation of stakeholders' report, NGO meetings and consultation with the President of the Human Rights Council; (vii) **WTO**: 19 December, attendance at NGO briefing on General Council meeting.

We have disseminated various United Nations releases to our network on a daily/weekly basis. Our organization would have performed much better if it had adequate funding and if it had commenced the envisaged international humanitarian strategies. All representative staff was volunteers.

6. Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (Special; 2004)

PART I - Introduction

The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) was established in 1969 as a 501c3 charitable organization located in the United States of America. VGIF provides grants worldwide to improve the lives of women and children by funding projects for educational activities, leadership training, community development, and the advancement of international understanding and cooperation. Since its inception, VGIF has funded over 300 successful projects with over 1,300,000 United States Dollar (USD) raised from individual contributors.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

VGIF attended as observers in the high-level coordination and general segments of the Economic and Social Council held at the United Nations headquarters, New York: (i) 6-30 July 2004, 29 June to 1 July 2005 and the 30 June to 3 July 2008, including special meetings organized by the NGO Section to discuss the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs.) such as: the conference: "Domestic Violence: Strengthening Community Participation; Promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women" in the context of achieving Goals 3 and 8, which took place on 27-28 January 2005 at the New York University School of Medicine, New York City; (ii) Economic and Social Council preparatory meeting for the 2005 high-level segment on the theme of "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities" on 16-17 March 2005; (iii) Economic and Social Council NGO Forum on 10 March 2005 and preparation for roundtables for the High Level Segment on MDGs, 16-17 March 2005; (iv) High Level Segment from 29 June to 1 July 2005; (v) preparatory meetings on the theme of the High Level Segment on decent work and sustainable environment, 4-5 April 2006; (vi) Bretton Woods meeting with the Economic and Social Council on 24 April 2006.

Members of the VGIF have participated in all sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held at the United Nations headquarters in New York since we obtained consultative status, participating in many parallel events, official meetings, and organized activities of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women: **51st Session**, *Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child*, 26 February to 9 March 2007, where we organized a parallel event, *Small Funds, Big Ideas* on 1 March and a VGIF board member chaired the Mary Purcell Grants for Girls project, which raised thousands of dollars to encourage and support the involvement of 10 teenage girls from developing countries; **50th Session**, *Enhanced participation of women and development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work*, 27 February to 10 March 2006, where we organized a parallel event, *Funding development to enhance women's participation in health, education and work* on 2 March; **49th Session**, *Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century,"* 28 February to 11 March 2005, where we organized a parallel event, *Advancing the MDGs through funding and advocacy* on 8 March. Moreover, we attended all annual International Women's Day events organized at United Nations Headquarters, the 8 March 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Members of the VGIF attended sessions of Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), held at the United Nations headquarters in New York, to gain a better understanding of how governments are implementing strategies to improve the status of women. We participated in the following sessions, and attended luncheons organized by the NGO

Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the NGO Committee on CSW which enabled us to meet with the experts to discuss issues: 39th Session 23 July to 10 August 2007; Special celebration in recognition of the 25th Anniversary on 23 July 2007; 38th Session 14 May to 1 June 2007; 37th Session 15 January - 2 February 2007; 36th Session 7 to 25 August 2006; 35th Session 15 May to 2 June 2006; 34th Session 16 January to 3 February 2006; 33rd Session 5 to 22 July 2005; 32nd Session 10 to 28 January 2005; 31st Session 6 to 23 July 2004; 30th Session 12 to 30 January 2004.

VGIF has followed the work of the 3rd Committee during the past four Sessions of the General Assembly. In addition, we were observers at the Informal Interactive Civil Society Hearings, 22 June 2006 and were invited to present a workshop at the meeting on Least Developed Countries.

VGIF has participated in the annual Department of Public Information (DPI/NGO) conferences at the United Nations headquarters in New York. In addition, members attend briefings on various topics: **58th Annual Conference** "Our Challenge: Voices of Peace, Partnerships and Renewal", 7-9 September 2005, we participated in a grants networking discussion, "Funding the Effort" presented by the Networking Committee; **59th Annual Conference** "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and Sustainable Development", 6-8 September 2006, one of our Board members organized the midday workshops; **60th Annual Conference** "Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All", 5-7 September 2007.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

VGIF has long been involved with supporting United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and often provided grants to NGOs working in similar capacities. Leadership at VGIF has been involved with the NGO Committee on UNIFEM since it began and participated in UNIFEM events at the United Nations headquarters in New York, such as the announcements of Trust Fund grantees, an annual event held in December 2004-2006, during the 16 Days of Violence against Women; Avon support event on 4 March 2008; support for UNIFEM's campaigns, for instance the Say NO campaign, 2007-2008; and participation in UNIFEM National Committees (UNIFEM USA). In addition, VGIF assisted with drafting and signed on to statements supporting UNIFEM's work through the NGO Committee on UNIFEM, which produced annual statements and workshops during the CSW.

VGIF has long been involved in supporting the mission and goals of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Various members of VGIF have been leaders in working with UNICEF through the NGO Committee on UNICEF. In December 2007 VGIF was a sponsor of a recognition breakfast at the United Nations during the United Nations World Fit for Children review. The work of the NGO

Committee on UNICEF and the Working Group on Girls regularly reported at VGIF board meetings and articles appeared in our printed bulletin distributed to our members worldwide.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed by providing grants to 84 projects in the following regions: Central and South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Major actions taken are summarized as follows: **Goal 1 — Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:** 41 projects were set to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. Women in all regions were trained in many different areas, including handicrafts, agriculture, animal husbandry, bee farming, transportation of goods, use of the internet and computers, and manufacturing. **Goal 2 — Achieve universal primary education:** 10 projects addressed everything from water and sanitation that kept girls from school, to books and materials to assure that girls learn, and that women who did not receive an education could learn to read, write and manage their businesses and households. **Goal 3 — Promote gender equality and empower women:** All 84 grants given addressed this goal, as it is the principle area where VGIF awards grants. Many of these projects addressed domestic violence and other areas of violence against women. They also included projects to increase female literacy, re-educate women victims of war and natural disaster, and to assist female prison inmates, women infected or affected by HIV, and other marginalized women. **Goal 5 — Improve maternal health:** Five projects specifically address this goal but a number of others do as well, particularly in the areas of domestic violence and nutrition. **Goal 6 — Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases:** There are two projects specifically addressing this goal.

VGIF's funding meant that nearly ¾ of a million people were helped through these small grants to NGOs throughout the developing world, thereby making an impact towards the implementation of the MDGs.

iv) Activities in support of global principles

During the reporting period, VGIF participated through advisories to members and participation in events at the United Nations headquarters, New York in the 2006 High-Level Meeting on AIDS (31 May – 2 June), International Days related to Violence Against Women (November 25 each year), Violence against Children (25 May 2006 and CSW events in March 2007), Poverty (October 17 each year), Human Rights (December 10 each year), and HIV/AIDS (December 1 each year).

Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO): GIF was the first DPI accredited organization to join CONGO when it changed its bylaws (1999). This membership encouraged us to apply for Economic and Social Council status, and we became full members of CONGO when we achieved the special consultative status. A member of our Board has been the treasurer of the CONGO Foundation for ten years. VGIF is involved in CONGO Committees, providing leadership and support to the NGO community.